

Heavy fighting in Somali capital

NAIROBI (AP) — Heavy fighting was reported Friday in Somalia's capital, Mogadishu, between rival factions of the nation's ruling party. The fighting began Thursday night and involved forces loyal to Interim President Ali Mouldi Mohamed and those of General Mohammad Farah Aideed, according to sources in radio contact with Mogadishu. The reported fighting appeared to be the heaviest since January, when former dictator Mohammad Siad Barre fled the capital after a month of battles between his forces and the three main rebel groups that forced to topple Mr. Siad Barre. The group now in control of the country, Aideed is the party's chairman and chief of parliament. Telecommunications in Somalia were cut in January and have not been restored. Reports of the latest unrest came from sources in Nairobi who have satellite radio contact with Mogadishu. The reported fighting threatens to shut down medical and food relief operations in the city of one million people. At least one relief organization, Save the Children, evacuated six of its seven staff members because of Friday's reported fighting, the sources said. The battling factions represent opponents within the Somali Hawiye clan, from which the United Somali Congress draws its support.

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Jordan, Syria to review cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Public Works and Housing Saad Hayel Al Shorou left for Syria Friday at the head of a Jordanian delegation to take part in the meetings of the Joint Jordanian-Syrian Sub-Committee which will start in Damascus Saturday. During its three-day meetings the committee will discuss a mechanism for implementing minutes of the last meeting, which was held in Amman. The meeting is aimed at enhancing bilateral cooperation in the field of housing, establishing residential areas, developing low-income housing estates and avoiding random expansion around cities and towns. The committee will also discuss scopes of cooperation in the fields of contracts, engineering consultations and carrying out joint projects. The Jordanian delegation to the meetings will present a working paper on the practical means for enhancing cooperation in the areas of housing and public works, including road construction, contracts, engineering consultancy, and regional planning.

Sudan says rebels kidnapped 10,000 children

KHARTOUM (R) — A Sudanese military leader has accused southern rebels of kidnapping 10,000 children for training as guerrillas and appealed to the world to help get them back. Colonel Mohammad Al Amin Khafif, a member of the ruling military junta, made the allegation at a rally Thursday in Malakal, capital of Upper Nile state in southern Sudan. He called on the international community to help get the children back to resume their education at Malakal, 700 kilometres south of Khartoum, or in the capital. The government has repeatedly levelled allegations of forced recruitment against the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), which has fought an eight-year war to end what it sees as domination by the north.

Bombs kill two women in Lebanon

TYRE, Lebanon (R) — Two women were killed by bombs near a village inside Israel's "security zone" in South Lebanon Friday, security sources said. They said two bombs were planted against a wall near Qantara, eight kilometres west of the Israeli border. Israeli troops and the Israeli-backed South Lebanon army control the zone.

Four rebels killed in Turkish clash

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey (AP) — Four Kurdish rebels were killed in a clash with security forces in southeastern Turkey Friday and a child died when troops fired to end an ensuing riot, the semi-official Anatolia news agency said. The clash occurred near the township of Kırıkkale in Sıirt province between an army patrol and separatist rebels, the agency said, quoting an official statement. Local sources said three soldiers were injured in the shootout, but this could not be officially confirmed. A 10-year-old boy was fatally wounded when troops fired in the air to disperse an illegal demonstration in Kırıkkale, the agency said. Local sources said the demonstration had been in support of the outlawed Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) and to protest the killing of guerrillas.

Westerners still missing in Turkey

ANKARA (R) — Five middle-aged Westerners were still missing Friday a week after rebel Kurds kidnapped them at a roadblock in the mountains of eastern Turkey. A manhunt involving up to 5,000 Turkish, troops, police, and special anti-terror squads has so far failed to find the three Americans, a Briton and an Australian, all in their fifties. The separatist Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) is thought to be holding the men, at least two of them Biblical archaeologists looking for Noah's Ark, but it has not claimed responsibility.

Kuwait should compensate returnees from Iraqi war reparation — Regent

Jordan could benefit from talents of returned expatriates ● Israel gets incentive for defiance, but Jordan pressured for moderation

By Lewis K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan will demand that Kuwait use part of its war reparations from Iraq to compensate Jordanians and Palestinians who have been forced out of the emirate and has asked the Kuwaiti government to extend the November deadline for the departure of all foreign nationals, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, said this week.

In a joint interview with the Jordan Times and the Christian Science Monitor, Crown Prince Hassan also warned that the political, social and economic strain placed on Jordan as a result of the influx of the returnees can seriously undermine the Kingdom's ability to contribute effectively to the peace process.

"You cannot enter into international obligations if you have some basic structural problems at home," the Crown Prince argued. "That is something that has to be recognised."

Kuwaiti charges unfounded, UNIKOM report says

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — Kuwaiti allegations that Iraqi forces infiltrated Bubiyan Island and engaged Kuwaiti forces in a firefight last month have been dismissed by a United Nations observer team which visited the area to investigate the incident.

A report given to Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar by the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission (UNIKOM), which patrols the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border under a Security Council mandate after the end of the Gulf war earlier this year, said that a UNIKOM team which visited Bubiyan could not find any evidence that Iraqi soldiers were detained by Kuwaitis after the alleged infiltration incident.

The report also said that the UNIKOM team could not find any trace of a firefight between Iraqi and Kuwaiti forces as claimed by the Kuwaiti authorities who also said that Iraqi soldiers were detained after the incident.

According to the report, the 45 Iraqis — who Kuwait claimed were members of the Iraqi armed forces — were Iraqi fishermen plying their trade in waters opposite Bubiyan and that none of them was on the island itself.

The report said the UNIKOM mission also could not find any trace or evidence of firearms being aboard the fishermen's boats as claimed by Kuwait; nor was any evidence found of any Iraqi boat hit in the alleged firefight as claimed by the Kuwaitis.

Following a complaint by Kuwait, the Security Council accepted the Kuwaiti version of the incident, brushing aside Iraq's statement that it did not know of such an event, and warned Baghdad. The United States said it was considering the incident as a serious violation of the Gulf war ceasefire terms.

Iraq has suggested that Kuwait had fabricated the incident to justify the emirate's request for continued American military presence and the establishment of U.S. and British bases there.

The U.S. Defense Department said Thursday Washington had agreed with Kuwait to continue "military cooperation" (see page 2).

Soviet Union grants full independence to Baltic states

Combined agency despatches

THE SOVIET UNION granted full independence to the three Baltic republics of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia Friday as its first act following the destruction of central Kremlin power.

"We have recognised their independence. These republics are now separate from the Soviet Union," Foreign Minister Boris Pankin told a Moscow news conference.

The historic decision, during the first meeting of the country's new ruling state council, came 51 years after they were absorbed by the Soviet Union.

The state council's move crowned a two-year campaign to break away from the Soviet state and marked the first tangible sign of physical disintegration of the 15-republic union once landed by Communist masters as unbreakable and eternal.

"Gorbachev congratulated me and the whole Estonian state and wished us all success and happiness," said Estonian Premier Edgar Savisaar, who was present at the meeting chaired by Presi-

dent Mikhail Gorbachev.

The success of the Baltic campaign owed much to August's abortive coup by Communist hardliners. The failure of that action broke the back of hardline resistance to independence and effectively destroyed two of the main organisations that held the union together — the KGB and the Communist Party.

Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis, most rigid of the Baltic leaders in his long conflict with Mr. Gorbachev, welcomed the decision in a news conference in his parliament, still barricaded following a bloody army crackdown in January.

"The fact that such a declaration has been made by the present leadership of the Soviet Union is a very joyful and positive action in all respects — not only for Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia but also for the Soviet Union and the entire international community," Mr. Landsbergis said.

The unanimous decision was made Friday by the day-old state council, made up of President Gorbachev and leaders of the Soviet republics.

(Continued on page 5)

U.N. chief outlines suggested mechanism for Iraqi oil sales

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — The United Nations has proposed steps for an unprecedented monitoring of limited Iraqi oil sales after the Security Council gives its approval, according to a draft from Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

The report, subject to revision, sets out ways of carrying out an Aug. 15 council resolution authorising the sale of up to \$1.6 billion of Iraqi oil in a six-month period under strict U.N. supervision.

Iraq has not yet signalled its agreement to the resolution which would allocate the monies from the oil for emergency food, medicine and other supplies as well as to a compensation fund for victims of the Gulf war.

The report says that Iraq, through its oil authority, SOMO, would market and sell the oil subject to the following provisions:

— Contracts must be approved by the Security Council's Sanctions Committee which must be notified by the state in which the purchaser is based. The committee is to set up procedures for prompt approval.

— Proceeds from the sale are

throwing human suffering at us the way they are."

"How is this irresponsible arrangement (going to) work out?" Prince Hassan asked.

The Crown Prince warned that pressures that are being exerted on Jordan and the Palestinians can crucially undermine Arab efforts to regain Palestinian national rights through a negotiated settlement.

"To effectively undermine (our) domestic constituency (meaning Jordanians and Palestinians) and to make it bitter is basically to say good-bye to Palestine," he said.

The Crown Prince drew a contrast between the way Jordan, "which has said yes to the peace process," is being "punished," and the way Israel is being treated by providing it with incentives to take part in the negotiations.

He pointed out that in the case of Israel the incentive (the proposed \$10 billion in housing loan guarantees for absorbing Soviet Jewish immigrants) will in itself be a major obstacle to the very peace process that the U.S. is trying to talk Israel into entering.

"At the end of the day, is there a genuine interest in seeing \$10 billion in housing loan guarantees as the incentive for Israel to say yes only to find a no?" he asked.

"I mean that is a very painless way of effectively saying: Yes, I (meaning Israel) will attend the peace process if it includes affirmation of the settlement table."

The Crown Prince expressed the view that in contrast Jordan is placed in a situation whereby it wants to take part in the peace conference but may be unable to contribute effectively to the process because of pressures it is being subjected to.

"The question does pose itself:

(Continued on page 5)

A day earlier, the Congress of People's Deputies approved the council's formation as part of a major restructuring of the Soviet government.

The re-emergence of the three nations from Kremlin rule capped a 1 1/2-year independence campaign marked by bloodshed, demonstrations and Soviet economic sanctions.

The state council has adopted a unanimous resolution to grant diplomatic recognition to these republics," Mr. Pankin said.

"We will conduct negotiations on the entire range of issues" relating to separating, including transportation, energy and defence, Mr. Pankin said.

The Baltic states have demanded withdrawal of Soviet troops. They also have demanded the Kremlin's annulment of the 1940 decision to absorb the Baltics, but the state council resolution did not explicitly nullify the absorption, Mr. Pankin said.

The Kremlin will also discuss Baltic states' compensation for Soviet-owned and built property.

(Continued on page 5)



Bush asks Congress to wait on Israel's \$10b loan request

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President George Bush Friday asked Congress to "give peace a chance" and delay for 120 days consideration of a request by Israel for \$10 billion in loan guarantees.

"I am going to ask every single member of Congress to defer just for 120 days consideration of this absorption aid package" that would help Israel deal with a huge refugee influx," Mr. Bush told reporters in a photo session with Secretary of State James Baker.

Mr. Bush said the deferral time is needed while Mr. Baker confers with leaders in Israel and in Arab countries in an effort to get them to sit down at the peace table.

"This is not the time to inflame the passions on both sides," Mr. Bush told reporters.

Mr. Bush insisted it was more important to postpone action in hopes of putting together a peace conference to end the fight between Arabs and Jews.

"I'm going to fight it because this is what the American people want," he said.

Mr. Bush and Mr. Baker repeatedly said "give peace a chance" in the troubled region.

Mr. Baker plans to focus on efforts to convene a Middle East peace conference when he holds foreign policy discussions with authorities in the Soviet Union next week. Presidents Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev agreed in July to co-sponsor such a conference.

While Mr. Baker stopped short of specifically saying he will re-

(Continued on page 5)

Sahara ceasefire takes effect

RABAT (Agencies) — A U.N. ceasefire took effect Friday in the disputed Western Sahara, the first stage in a plan designed to end 16 years of fighting and let inhabitants choose between independence or Moroccan rule.

The mineral-rich desert territory is claimed by Morocco and the Polisario guerrilla movement, which has been fighting for independence since Spanish colonists left in 1975 and Morocco annexed the Western Sahara.

A 145-member U.N. contingent from 16 countries was deployed at 10 points around the desert territory as the ceasefire began at 0600 GMT. The first contingent will grow to 240 members and could eventually reach 2,800, including nearly 1,700 troops, in the coming months, at a cost of \$180 million.

The U.N. force will monitor the ceasefire while preparing for a voter referendum in January.

Canadian General Armand Roy, head of the U.N. force's military unit, and Zia Rizvi, deputy to U.N. Special Representative Johannes Mauz, were stationed Friday at Ayoum, administrative capital for the region. A Soviet transport plane flew in logistic materials overnight.

Mr. Rizvi met Thursday with Moroccan King Hassan II in Rabat before arriving at Ayoum, administrative capital for the region. The king this week warned U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar that Polisario troops were making incursions despite the impending ceasefire.

The U.N. leader Thursday stressed the importance of respecting the ceasefire, including an end to all military operations and troop movements.

Moroccan Minister of State Ahmad Alaiwi, close to the king, on Friday urged the United Nations to "take all necessary steps" to survey the Polisario.

Earlier this week, Mr. Alaiwi asked all Moroccans to put aside their grievances and "act as a single man with a single objective: The Sahara is Moroccan. Other problems, economic, social and cultural, can wait."

Fighting flared last month between guerrillas and the Moroccan armed forces who made sorties beyond their defence lines to strike at what Rabat called Polisario infiltrators.

The report was to be submitted Friday or next week to the Security Council.

Proceeds from the sale are

Princess Fakhrunisa Zeid laid to rest at Royal Cemetery

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Highness Princess Fakhrunisa Zeid, wife of the late Prince Zeid Ben Al Hussein and mother of Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid, was laid to rest Friday at the Royal Cemetery.

The funeral was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Prince Ra'd and Royal Family members as well as senior officials, in-

cluding Upper House of Par-

liament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi, His Majesty King Hussein's Political Advisor Adnan Abu Odeh, Deputy Prime Minister Ali Saheen and Transport and Armed Forces officers.

Princess Fakhrunisa Zeid died Thursday. Flags flew half-mast in mourning at all ministries, government departments and public institutions Friday.

DOORS ARE OPEN FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO INVEST IN TELECOMMUNICATIONS PROJECTS IN JORDAN

TCC, the Telecommunications Corporation of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, announces that it is the intention of the government to allow the private sector to invest in the telecommunications sector through "revenue-sharing" schemes and special agreements in which the private sector can undertake the responsibilities of financing, constructing, managing, operating and maintaining a number of expansion as well as new telecommunications projects in Jordan in addition to other singular projects and services.

TCC, therefore, invites interested parties in this investment opportunity to attend the meeting (seminar) to be held at the meeting hall at Amman Chamber of Industry on Monday the Sept. 23rd, 1991 at 10:00 a.m. The meeting will be chaired by His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Transport and Communications for the purpose of presenting and addressing the said intention (policy decision) in an effort to arrive through an active dialogue with the interested parties as to the best methodology and implementation mechanisms to be adopted in Jordan. In light of what has been so far implemented and experienced by some of the developing countries, where one of the most important schemes used has been well known by the words:

"Build — Operate — Transfer" (B.O.T.), which aims at enhancing the role of the national private sector in developing the telecommunications sector as well as attracting foreign investment.

N.B. TCC management prepared a short reading (preamble) on the subject (in English) for the benefit of all interested Jordanian parties to enable them to communicate with Arab and foreign possible partners and investors before the above mentioned meeting in order to obtain some preliminary inputs and responses which could be presented by the parties through the meeting in the hope that they will prove to be useful to arrive at the best formula and methodology for a successful partnership scheme with the private sector in Jordan. The said "preamble" can be obtained from the office of the Secretary of Tender Committee / TCC Headquarter / Tower Building.

Eng. Mohammad Shahid Ismail
Director General

U.S., Kuwait to continue military cooperation

WASHINGTON (USA) — U.S. and Kuwaiti government representatives have initiated a 10-year agreement providing for continued military cooperation in Kuwait in the post-Gulf war era, the Defence Department confirmed Thursday.

"We hope the agreement can be signed formally by both sides later this month," Pentagon spokesman Pete Williams told a news briefing. The agreement was first announced by the Kuwaiti News Agency Sept. 4.

During his visit to the Gulf last

May, Defence Secretary Dick Cheney "addressed the issue of

enhancing post-war security and

stability" in the region, Mr. Williams recalled. Since then, the United States has been discussing with Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman, and the United Arab Emirates "such arrangements as

access to ports and facilities, pre-

positioning military equipment,

joint training, and joint exer-

cises."

"The agreements that we're

pushing with the Gulf states,"

the spokesman told reporters,

"discuss the purposes for

enhanced cooperation and the

conditions for use of facilities and

prepositioning. They do not spell

out ... the type and amount of

equipment to be prepositioned;

those technical details will be

worked out in follow-on discus-

sions."

Mr. Williams pointed out that

the United States has similar

agreements with other nations in

the Middle East and Europe.

Responding to a question, he

stressed that "this does not in any

way open the door for permanent

military bases in Kuwait."

Iranian diplomat fears hostage deal may founder

BEIRUT (AP) — A senior Iranian diplomat accused Israel of a statement published Friday of blocking efforts to secure the release of Western hostages by refusing to free Arab detainees.

Mohammad Jawad Zamani, whose country is a key player in the hostage drama, said that Israel, "by not releasing the Lebanese mujahedeen, is obstructing the positive trend in efforts to resolve the issue of the hostages, the Israeli prisoners and those detained by the Zionist entity."

"Hopes for a solution to the hostage issue would fade unless all the Lebanese and Palestinian detainees are released," said Mr. Zamani, Iran's charge d'affaires and senior most diplomat in Lebanon.

His short statement was published by several Beirut newspapers.

One of the dailies, the conservative daily Al Liwa, also reported that the hostage crisis would "reach a happy ending in the coming months of October and November."

It attributed the information to diplomatic sources whom it did not identify.

"Contacts under way at regional and international levels have achieved major progress in overcoming difficulties that had faced the achievement of a package deal for the swap of the Western hostages, the Israeli prisoners and Arabs detained by Israel," the report said.

Al Liwa has no record of accurate reporting on the hostage issue.

British Television journalist John McCarthy was released on Aug. 8 with a letter from his captors to United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar urging him to mediate a swap of the hostages for Arab detainees.

Three days later, American writer Edward Tracy was freed. But the process was stalled

"As I've said before," he explained, "the president and the secretary have emphasised that we don't seek permanent bases for U.S. (land) forces to operate in the 'Persian' Gulf."

However, he added, "with some nations in the 'Persian' Gulf, we have the ability to station naval forces ... but we are not looking for permanent bases in Kuwait, or permanent land forces anywhere in the 'Persian' Gulf."

Asked to define the purposes of the agreement with Kuwait and the others the administration hopes to negotiate as well, the spokesman replied: "We want to enhance 'Persian' Gulf security and stability; we want to enhance the security of Kuwait; we want to enhance the effectiveness of the Kuwaiti armed forces through joint training and exercises; we want to enhance the ability of the United States to ensure the security of the Persian Gulf by having pre-positioned equipment...."

Mr. Williams told questions

that U.S. forces in the region

presently number about 40,000,

including air, land, and sea

forces. He said the Gulf military

cooperation agreements would

not prolong the presence in the

region of large numbers of U.S.

forces but be noted, "at any given

time, there will be more U.S.

forces there for exercises; training

and that sort of thing than

there would have been in the

absence of these agreements."

The spokesman said he expects

the troops which have taken part

in Operation Desert Storm will

be out of the region by the end of

this year.

28 hectares of hashish destroyed in Bekaa

BAALBEK, Lebanon (R) — Syrian troops and Lebanese police destroyed 28 hectares of hashish in Lebanon's Bekaa Friday, winterized said.

Farmers in the area said they

were not worried about the crack-

down, the first this year. The

much more valuable opium poppy

crop was harvested two

months ago for processing into

heroin.

Drug growers said they believed

the destruction was symbolic

and they would be able to

to tribe officials to save their crops.

Dozens of troops and police

swooped on two areas near Baal-

bek, 70 kilometres east of Beirut

uprooting and burning cannabis

plants, from which hashish is

made, or bulldozing them under.

Syrian intelligence officers su-

ervised the raid. Tractors and

bulldozers were closely guarded.

The Lebanese general prosecut-

or in the Bakaa Valley issued 100

charges on Friday against sus-

pected hashish growers.

Police have estimated that ab-

out 14,000 hectares of the Bekaa

are growing hashish and some

1,400 hectares are used for cul-

tivating opium poppies for heroin.

Lebanon and Syria last Sunday

signed an agreement to cooperate

in fighting the Bekaa drugs trade

— a move demanded by the

United States as a precondition

for aid to Damascus.

The pact has to be approved by

a council including Syrian Presi-

dent Hafez Al Assad and

Lebanese President Elias Hrawi

before it takes effect. The council

is expected to meet soon.

A kg of raw opium sells for

\$200 processed into heroin it can

fetch \$15,000 per kilo. Its street

value in the West is hundreds of

thousands of dollars.

Syria has about 40,000 troops in

Lebanon, which wants to

attract international aid to re-

build after 15 years of civil war by

moving against the drugs trade and

securing the release of Western

hostages.

A U.S. official said last month

that Syria, despite its support for

Middle East peace efforts and the

release of Western hostages,

would not get U.S. aid or interna-

tional loans until it cracked down

on drugs.

He said Syrian military officers

were involved in the drugs trade,

which is run by clans in the Bekaa

Valley. The growers are pro-

tected by private militias or have

influential backing.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak

Shamir claimed Monday that Syri-

an government officials were

involved in the drugs trade.

"Drugs smuggling in our country

results mainly from Lebanon where,

in the Syrian-dominated Bekaa Valley, drugs are grown,

manufactured and distributed," Mr. Shamir told an anti-drugs organization.

"It is no secret that Syrian

government elements have been

involved in this illegal enter-

prise," he added.

Mr. McCarthy recently has

been in living away from public

adjusting to normal life and

meeting with the families of other

hostages and friends.

Mrs. Mann said she also hoped

to see Foreign Office Minister

Douglas Hogg during her stay in

London to see Mr. McCarthy.

Mrs. Mann said on reaching

Heathrow airport from Beirut

she hoped Mr. McCarthy would

be able to give her some

news of her 77-year-old husband.

Mr. Shamir, a World War II

British pilot, vanished May 12,

1989, as he drove to a bank in

west Beirut, where the couple

lived. He is believed to be held by

pro-Iranian Shiite extremists.

"I know he wasn't with my

husband at all but I'm just hoping

that maybe he may have heard

something which might give me

some little more hope to go on

waiting," she said.

Mr. McCarthy recently has

been in living away from public

adjusting to normal life and

meeting with the families of other

hostages and friends.

It will be fair and winds will be

northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly

Former University of Jordan president recognised for achievements

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein has conferred on the former president of the University of Jordan, Dr. Mahmoud Al Samra, the Jordanian Al Kawab Medal of the Second Degree in recognition of his contribution towards the development of higher education in the country.

The medal was presented to Dr. Samra by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, at a special ceremony held at Al Hussein Youth City in the presence of the minister of higher education and presidents of the four government universities in Jordan.

In a brief address on the occasion, the Regent voiced his pride in Dr. Samra's achievements for the Kingdom.

There is need to streamline the relationship between the Jordanian community and its needs and the Jordanian universities so that the country might be able to meet future challenges, the Regent said.

He said that coordination and dialogue among the four universities is of paramount importance in the course of developing the



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan (right) presents Dr. Mahmoud Al Samra, former presi-

dent of University of Jordan, with Al Kawab Medal of the Second Degree (Petra photo).

higher educational process.

Dr. Samra, 65, was president of the University of Jordan between 1989 and 1991. Between

1979 and 1989 he was vice president. He holds a doctorate degree in Arabic literature from London University.

A royal decree last month appointed Dr. Fawzi Gharibeh as president of the University of Jordan after Dr. Samra resigned.

Train ride organised to collect donations for charity

By Nur Sadi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Hijaz Railroad was once again revived Thursday for the Seventh Annual Train Ride organised by the Amman Marriott Hotel.

The railroad, which was built during the time of Lawrence of Arabia, left from the Amman station to Daba'a, about 14 kilometres from Queen Alia International Airport. About 310 people participated in the train ride, which was organised for the purpose of collecting donations for charity, specifically the Al Hussein Society.

Although it was not yet known how much was collected this year, Carol Hanna, group operation manager at the Marriott hotel, said the event usually brings in \$10,000.

"The train ride is one of the many activities the hotel organises for charity," Miss Hanna said. "It is the policy of the hotel (internationally) to organise such events."

The three hour trip to Daba'a was met with much excitement from the people. Music, food and drinks provided for a lively atmosphere.

Along the way, local inhabitants stood outside to wave to the passengers on the train. People moved around from one compartment to the other making social calls. Others danced wherever they could find a place. Some people, leaning out of the windows, chatted with their neighbours in the next compartment.

Occasionally, the train made a stop in order to be oiled. Built in 1902, the train has a German engine dating from 1935, according to Miss Hanna.

The railroad runs from Damascus to Aqaba. "But one of the reasons why we stop at Daba'a is because after Daba'a, it is a different railway and we are not allowed to go further," she said.

"What we do is rent the train," Miss Hanna said.

A day before the event, Marriott employees cleaned the train, decorated it and installed what was needed for the trip.

In Daba'a, candle sticks were put on the ground where the train stopped to make a visible track at night to the Daba'a Castle, where tables and a buffet were set. Dinner was also accompanied by the Marriott's Poinciana band and dancing.

Attending the dinner at Daba'a were about 20 handicapped people from the Center for Education and Rehabilitation of the Physically Handicapped run by the Al Hussein Society.

The center has over 100 boys and girls including young adults who are unable to

attend ordinary schools. It also houses 40 residential students and 15 partially self-supportive youths in sheltered accommodation. The goal of the center is to enable the children fully contribute to Jordan's economic and social life.

"I expected it to be a lot of fun, but I never imagined the setting from the train to the dinner tables to be so beautiful," said a first time rider.

Samir Karashish, a participant in the train ride, said, "Jordan is a small country. Everyone complains there is nothing to do but sitting in the middle of nowhere (in the desert) is a lot of fun."

"The setting is beautiful," said another participant. "It goes to show that Jordan has a lot to offer but it needs exploiting from the public. I'm having a great time."

According to Ibraheem Toukan, "personally, I enjoy eating and drinking outdoors. The Marriott was very instrumental in organising this event. It is in line with the Marriott's great tradition and well known hospitality."

One participant who had been on previous train rides said that "this is the first time the Marriott runs out of some drinks on the train."

The idea of the train ride, which began seven years ago, was first tried on Marriott employees, Miss Hanna told the Jordan Times.

"Any event we do try it on ourselves," she said. "This way, we can see what is needed."

Employees sat on the first train with a check list. "Along the way, we wrote down what was missing. For example, toilets in Daba'a, water and soap to wash our hands and so on," she said.

According to a Marriott employee, there will be another train ride at the end of the month because "a lot of people who wanted to participate did not get a chance."

The train ride is one of the major charity events in the country in trying to promote Jordan internationally, the hotel has also organised a fashion show this week where models from Italy, including Vogue magazine, will visit the country.

"After their show, we are taking a helicopter and flying them to Petra where they will take pictures for Vogue. It is a great opportunity for Jordan to be promoted abroad," Miss Hanna said.

Another possible hotel function, with the help of the Ministry of Tourism and other hotels, is getting the opera of Rome and the chorus of the Academy of Rome, about 200 people, to play in downtown Amman.

"But for now it is not definite," Miss Hanna said.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

- Art exhibition by Ibrahim Abu Rabb at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- Exhibition of ceramics by Iraqi artist Salim Jassim Al Nouri at Alia Art Gallery.
- An exhibition of naive painting, from Germany at Abd Al Hameed Shabani Foundation Gallery.

FLM

- German film entitled, "Mitter les Herr" at the Goethe Institute — 8:30 p.m.

Jordan secures delay in implementation by Egypt of visa requirements

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan has secured a one-week delay in the implementation of an Egyptian decision to impose visa requirements for Jordanians travelling to Egypt and is studying a possible reciprocal Jordanian move, officials and informed sources said.

The Egyptian step to revoke the practice of issuing visas to Jordanians upon entry at the border points was supposed to have taken effect Thursday but Jordanian contacts with the Cairo foreign ministry managed to bring about a postponement until Sept. 12.

The Egyptian Foreign Ministry, in a meeting with the Jordanian ambassador in Cairo, Nabil Nimer, conveyed its decision to Jordan on Wednesday, Interior Minister Jawdat Esbou said Thursday.

Further contacts with Arab League intervention led to the deferral of the implementation of the decision by one week, he said.

Senior officials said the Jordanian Foreign Ministry was studying the implications of the Egyptian move and a possible Jordanian step to impose visa restrictions on Egyptian nationals travelling to the Kingdom.

"Jordan has lifted visa requirements for Egyptian nationals as far back as 1982," a source said.

Employees sat on the first train with a check list. "Along the way, we wrote down what was missing. For example, toilets in Daba'a, water and soap to wash our hands and so on," she said.

According to a Marriott employee, there will be another train ride at the end of the month because "a lot of people who wanted to participate did not get a chance."

The train ride is one of the major charity events in the country in trying to promote Jordan internationally, the hotel has also organised a fashion show this week where models from Italy, including Vogue magazine, will visit the country.

"After their show, we are taking a helicopter and flying them to Petra where they will take pictures for Vogue. It is a great opportunity for Jordan to be promoted abroad," Miss Hanna said.

Another possible hotel function, with the help of the Ministry of Tourism and other hotels, is getting the opera of Rome and the chorus of the Academy of Rome, about 200 people, to play in downtown Amman.

"But for now it is not definite," Miss Hanna said.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Prince Hassan congratulates Brazil

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Friday sent a cable to Brazilian President Fernando Collor de Mello congratulating him on his country's independence day and wishing him continued good health and happiness and the Brazilian people further progress and prosperity.

Crown Prince conveys condolences

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Friday delegated Ibad Governor Fayed Al Abbadi to convey his condolences to the Khasawneh family over the death of the wife of Amin Khasawneh.

CAEU headquarters to be moved to Cairo

AMMAN (J.T.) — The headquarters of the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) will be moved from Amman to Cairo within three months, according to Industry, Trade and Supply Minister Ali Abul Ragheb, who returned home from Cairo Friday after taking part in the Arab League meetings.

The decision, taken at an extraordinary meeting attended by nine out of 11 CEAU members, provides for the Arab League to offer ample compensation to CEAU employees in Amman. It also calls for the formation of a committee comprising representatives of Jordan, Egypt, Syria, the United Arab Emirates, and the CEAU secretary to take the necessary procedures for the move and for payment of the compensation, the minister said.

Some of the CEAU employees, including its secretary general, will be moved to Cairo and their contracts will be renewed, according to the announcement.

Mr. Abul Ragheb held talks with Egyptian ministers and other officials to discuss the question of the move and has reached agreement on a number of steps to be taken in this regard, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Mr. Abul Ragheb held a series of meetings in Cairo with Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade Dr. Yusri Mustafa and Minister of International Cooperation Maurice Makramallah to discuss ways of boosting trade between Jordan and Egypt.

Agreement was reached at the meetings to revise the bilateral protocol on trade between the two countries to upgrade its terms, according to Petra.

The operations and activities of the Jordanian-Egyptian Investment and Development Company were also reviewed and the two sides agreed to hold a general assembly meeting to discuss joint projects, according to Petra.

It said that the Arab League has issued statement expressing appreciation to Jordan for hosting the CEAU in the past 12 years during which the Arab League headquarters was not functioning from Cairo.

Government pledges support for society

AMMAN (Petra) — Health Minister Mamdouh Al Abbadi told a meeting concerned with ways of protecting consumers that the government backs the efforts of the Jordanian Society for the Protection of Consumers.

Egyptian sources said in Amman all Jordanians who hold five-year passports could obtain Egyptian visas immediately upon application from the embassy in Amman for a fee of JD 14,500.

Issuance of visas to holders of two-year Jordanian passports — residents of the occupied territories — will be contingent on approval by the Egyptian Interior Ministry in Cairo, according to the sources.

Egypt has now imposed visa requirements on Iraqis as well as nationals of all Arab countries which Cairo considers as supporters of Iraq. These include Sudan, Algeria, Yemen and Mauritania as well as Jordan.

The Egyptian decision came against the backdrop of a plunge in bilateral relations after the Cairo government launched a bitter attack on a White Paper published by Jordan explaining the Kingdom's position during the Gulf crisis.

Foreign Minister Abdullah Ensour said last week that Jordan did not expect the row to disrupt the Middle East peace process.

The Egyptian decision to impose visa requirements for Jordanians also followed reports in the Egyptian press that police had arrested a group of alleged saboteurs upon their entry to Egypt from Jordan and had "confessed" to planning to launch a rocket attack on American ships in the Suez Canal.

Jordan and Egypt had excellent relations since 1984, when His Majesty King Hussein became the first Arab leader to resume diplomatic ties with Cairo, ending a six-year hiatus which followed the signing of

Correction

A headline on page 3 of the Thursday-Friday edition of the Jordan Times incorrectly stated that Labour Minister Abd Al Karim Al Dughami said returnees would add 200,000 people to Jordan's unemployment list. While the minister

did say that the returnees would add to the problem of unemployment in the Kingdom, he gave no such figure in the story itself. The Jordan Times apologises for the error.

King prepares to address European Parliament

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Taher Masri has joined His Majesty King Hussein in London in preparation for the King's trip to Strasbourg, France, where he will address the European Parliament.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that the King's address in Strasbourg on Wednesday will be important because it will focus attention on Jordan's stand concerning the Middle East problem and current initiatives to establish a just and durable peace in the region.

King Hussein focused attention on regional issues as well as Jordan's stand with regard to the Palestine problem in a wide range

in the 1967 war when it was under Jordanian rule.

At the upcoming peace conference, he said, the Jordanian side will have the opportunity to discuss problems with Israel concerning water rights and other issues while the Palestinians can deal with their part and settle issues with the Israelis.

The King stressed that the Palestinians have the right to statehood as much as the Israelis. He also described his serious doubts about the Arab-Israeli war of 1967 before it began and how his worst suspicions and fears were confirmed when it developed into what he described as a disaster for Jordan.

Ministry set to implement ban of non-Jordanian drivers

AMMAN (J.T.) — Inspection teams from the Labour Ministry are now doing work beyond regular office hours to see to it that an order by Labour Minister Abd Al Karim Al Dughami to ban the entry into Jordan by any non-Jordanian driving a Jordanian truck, the police departments have been given strict orders to implement this order.

The minister said that several Jordanian companies had been found to be still employing non-Jordanian drivers in violation of the ministry's regulation.

The order, which is being implemented in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior and the Public Security Department and border police, was taken to give the chance to the Jordanian truck drivers to work, according to Minister Dughami.

In his announcement of the ban, the minister said that the

decision had been taken to stop entry into Jordan of any non-Jordanian driving a Jordanian truck, the police departments have been given strict orders to implement this order.

Mr. Dughami warned employers and companies that legal steps would be taken against the violators of the ministry's regulation.

In the past week, the minister announced that no teacher at community colleges, schools or universities would be allowed to stay in the country. The measure he said is being taken to open the way for the unemployed teachers, particularly among the returning expatriates to get employment.

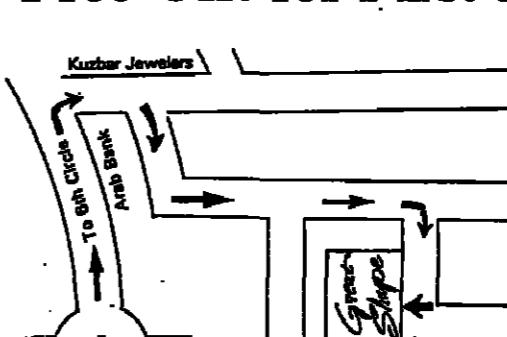
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MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:

GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Faximile: 661242

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Loan on hold!

U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE James Baker appears to have put on hold Israel's request for a U.S.-guaranteed \$10 billion loan to settle new Jewish immigrants in Israel when he ruled out consideration of this deal for the time being lest it interfere with the delicate stage that the peace process has reached.

There is no doubt that this position by Mr. Baker is a step in the right direction even though the secretary of state has attempted to downgrade its impact as a pressure tactic against Tel Aviv's determination to derail the U.S.-brokered peace process by continuing its colonisation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, including of course East Jerusalem. At a time when preparations for the projected peace conference have reached a very critical stage, Israeli settlement building on the occupied territories has to be the biggest obstacle to holding the parley. Had Washington taken a different posture on the \$10 billion loan guarantee to Israel, it would have given the Arab side a clear signal that there would be no more Arab land left to trade for peace. In retrospect, even though Mr. Baker has denied any linkage between the peace talks envisaged to take place in October of this year and the loan issue there is every reason to believe that in fact the linkage is organic and there for all parties to see and appreciate.

It was good news last night that Mr. Baker's stance was publicly backed by U.S. President George Bush himself lest Tel Aviv contemplate some hope that could still drive a wedge between the president and his secretary of state on this matter.

Until the U.S. chief executive fortified State Department assurances that the Israeli request for a multi-billion dollar loan to settle new Jewish immigrants would not be considered for the time being pending the assessment of its impact on the peace process, the U.S. secretary of state's impending visit to area to tie up loose ends was in big danger of being so undermined and weakened that it might have failed before it even began. This is the time therefore for the entire U.S. body politic, including Congress, to speak with one voice on this and other peace-related issues in order to lend more credence to Washington's stated determination to attain honourable and lasting peace in the area. As Mr. Baker's September trip to the Middle East will make or break the peace process, his hands need to be strengthened to the maximum, especially in the aftermath of the Israeli prime minister's refusal Thursday to even suspend the construction of Israeli settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in utter defiance of U.S. policies on Israel's application for the loan.

At the same time, Washington is called upon to speak louder and act more forcefully and effectively against the usurpation of Arab lands to resettle Jewish immigrants from the Soviet Union and elsewhere. Tel Aviv would not have dared to defy international opposition to its colonisation policy in the West Bank and Gaza Strip the way it did had it not detected a weakening of international resolve against the construction of new settlements on Arab lands.

Moscow can also come to the rescue of the fragile peace process in the Middle East by making it unequivocally clear that Soviet Jewish emigration to Israel will not be permitted to proceed before there is a just and permanent settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian problem. It goes without saying that Moscow and Washington can act in league and hope to achieve solid results — and they should.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

The role of the Arab League came under scrutiny by Al Ra'i Arabic daily which said that serious efforts should be made urgently through its member states in order to save the lives of millions of Iraqis now in grave danger. Commenting on a statement by the Arab League secretary general, Mr. Ismat Abdul Majid, Al Ra'i said the Arabs should not offer the Iraqis mere lip-service but should rather take meaningful steps to end the embargo which is causing a real threat to the lives of millions of innocent people. The Arab League secretary general opened a meeting in Cairo with an address voicing the Arab League's concern over the plight of the Iraqi people and the difficulties they are facing because of the shortages of basic food and medicine resulting from the trade embargo, said the paper. But it added that though the Arabs welcome such development which constitutes only a timid step forward, they consider such statements and traditional words of sympathy among Arabs as meaningless because they can never save the Iraqis from danger. We had hoped to hear a plan for real action on the part of the Arab League to deal with the situation resulting from the embargo on Iraq, not mere words of sympathy which can be of no use to anyone, the paper added. Iraq is not in need of good words of sympathy but rather of food and medicine for its people and other requirements to re-construct its infrastructure, the paper stressed.

A columnist in Al Dustour reflected on the pockets of poverty and hunger in Jordan, and said that no one can deny that at least one million people in the country live under the poverty line as pointed out sometimes earlier by UNICEF. Tamer Al Odwan said that it is true that there is much talk nowadays that efforts would be made to deal with the situation, yet nothing is happening simply because concerned government departments have very limited budgets. Unless economic and development projects are initiated and jobs are offered to the unemployed, poverty and need will spread further, the writer noted. He said that the Ministry of Social Development ought to use its total budget for this year to help the needy and the sick; also the rich should be approached to come to the help of the poor through a national campaign to raise at least JD6 million, like the amount collected from the public in contributions during the Gulf crisis; and above all, the government should adopt an emergency budget solely to provide urgent assistance to the very poor, the writer proposed. He said that since Amman is home to most of the people of the country, it has been injoying most of the basic services, but other areas like the rural regions are deprived of such requirements for living and the farmers and farming in the Jordan Valley which is the backbone of the national economy is being left without proper care.

Cairo frustrated by fading role in Gulf security

By William C. Mann
The Associated Press

CAIRO, Egypt — With the ruin of Iraq's army, Egypt assumed unquestioned military superiority among the Arabs. But flexing its muscle is proving more difficult than Cairo imagined.

Egypt, one of the United States' staunchest Arab allies, hoped the Gulf war could achieve what earlier efforts had failed to: A new Arab order with a militarily and politically powerful Egypt at its heart.

Those hopes appear to be fading daily as the Damascus declaration, a security agreement reached with Gulf states in the war's immediate aftermath, shows increasingly less substance.

Egypt had hoped the agreement would preclude what now appears a certainty — the continued military presence in Kuwait and elsewhere in the region of the United States and other non-Arab foreign powers.

Twice last week, Egypt demanded to be consulted on Gulf security arrangements. Foreign Minister Amr Moussa made his country's position quite clear by arguing that the "stability or success" of any security arrangement depends on Egypt's participation.

But as he spoke Tuesday in Cairo, generals from Kuwait, Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Bahrain were discussing in Oman the establishment of a Gulf defense force that might, but won't necessarily, include Egyptian soldiers.

And despite Egyptian demands, the only scheduled consultation between the Cairo government and the Gulf states is a long-planned Sept. 10 meeting organised as an offshoot of an Arab League gathering in Cairo.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Egypt's ties with the Arabs of the Gulf, its allies in the U.S.-led coalition that defeated Iraq, have reached a "crisis point," Magdi Sobhi wrote last week in the Cairo journal International Politics.

Postwar hopes that Egypt, Syria and the Gulf states might work together toward "a new inter-Arab order... now appear very doubtful," he said.

President Hosni Mubarak was a key organiser of the Arab forces that helped end political legitimacy to Washington's leading role in driving Iraq from Kuwait.

signing, trouble brewed. A split among the Arabs, especially over who would protect what, didn't surprise Middle East experts.

Angered by indications Kuwait was turning to the West for protection rather than to its Arab brothers, Mr. Mubarak ordered home all 36,000 Egyptian troops from Kuwait.

Nevertheless, he and the Kuwaitis insist the declaration remains in effect.

Philip Robins, head of the Middle East programme of London's Royal Institute of International Affairs, says that despite

euphoria among Gulf states over the liberation of Kuwait, they are deeply ambivalent about using Egyptian and Syrian troops for the way.

Regional security was the focus of the Damascus declaration, signed less than a week after the Gulf war ended on Feb. 28. Egypt and Syria agreed to provide thousands of troops as the backbone of a protective force for the oil-rich but military weak region.

In return, they would get \$15 billion in financial aid.

Almost immediately after the

regional security formula has failed before.

In September 1961, the United Arab Republic of Egypt and Syria sent troops in an Arab League force to protect Kuwait from Iraqi threats.

Syria quit its merger with Egypt and the Kuwaitis prevailed upon President Gamal Abdul Nasser that December to pull his troops out. Kuwait retained the services of soldiers from Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Sudan for another 18 months.

Last week was particularly frustrating for Egyptian policy-makers.

The first clashes since the war were reported between Kuwaiti and Iraqi soldiers, an alleged Iraqi incursion on a Kuwaiti island repelled by land, sea and air forces.

Possibly more significant for the Egyptians was the U.S. pledge of an indefinite presence in Kuwait.



British spy Blake clings to communist ideal in Soviet turmoil

By Mark Trevelyan
Reuter

MOSCOW — As the Soviet Union disintegrates before his eyes and the Communist Party crumbles away, British spy George Blake still clings to the ideal for which he betrayed his country.

The last survivor of an infamous line of British spy-diplomats who passed the West's secrets to Moscow, he had abandoned hope long before last month's abortive Soviet coup that his adopted homeland was on the road to true communism.

But he shows no trace of remorse for his actions and still cherishes the belief that communism eventually will triumph.

"It was an ideal which, if it could have been achieved, would have been well worth it. I thought it could be, and I did what I could to help it, to build such a society," Mr. Blake, now 69, said in an interview at his Moscow flat.

"It has not proved possible. But I think it is a noble idea and I think humanity will return to it because I think it always has."

Mr. Blake, a former British intelligence officer, was unmasked in 1961 and sentenced to 42 years imprisonment for betraying British agents. He has admitted handing Moscow the names of more than 600 agents but has always denied that any were executed.

In 1966, with the help of two British peace activists, he escaped from London's Wormwood Scrubs prison and was smuggled across the iron curtain to Moscow, where he has lived for a quarter of a century.

"In my first periods here I thought that we were moving forward. I was very naive," Mr. Blake recalled.

"I remember when I came here you could walk into an ordinary gastronom (food store) and just buy a glass of champagne at the counter. I thought: We are on the eve of communism. Here anyone can go into a grocery store and buy himself a glass of champagne."

Mr. Blake laughed. "I thought that Soviet man was a new man — but he wasn't," he said. "Until people can work as hard for the community as they work for themselves, it's vain to hope you can build a communist or socialist society."

He shows no trace of remorse for his actions and still cherishes the belief that communism eventually will triumph.

"It was an ideal which, if it could have been achieved, would have been well worth it. I thought it could be, and I did what I could to help it, to build such a society," Mr. Blake, now 69, said in an interview at his Moscow flat.

"Now, the tooth has been pulled out."

He voiced hope that Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and Russia's Boris Yeltsin could now work together to reform the country and turn the Soviet Union into an association of sovereign republics similar to the European Community.

"I hope there won't be an upheaval. I hope it will all pass off peacefully. And then I think it's possible... that we will get a sort of mixed economy which will be not unlike what you have in Britain or Holland," he said.

"A society which is in essence capitalist but toned down by social legislation — caring capitalism."

Mr. Blake has dismissed as nonsense British press reports that the KGB security police, under liberal new leadership, will return him to Britain to spend the rest of his in jail.

"My neighbours were very upset. They offered to hide me," he said with a laugh.

Mr. Blake defended the KGB's record and dismissed suggestions that it's feared and all-pervasive intelligence empire may now be abolished.

"If you have an intelligence service with professional officers and agents in every country of the world, to destroy that and build it up again from nothing makes no sense," he said.

"It was one of the few Soviet institutions which was not corrupt. The KGB was to the Communist Party what the Jesuit Order was to the Catholic Church. It was a highly elite and very select force, and still is. For a very long time, the people in it did believe they were building communism. I don't think they do now, because you must be completely blind to think that."

Mr. Blake believes the KGB, descended from Stalin's NKVD and the Bolshevik Cheka, will survive in some form and keep many of its secrets intact.

"I don't think the archives of the KGB will be opened up. They couldn't be and they shouldn't be, any more than those of (Britain's) MI5 and MI6. It would be a betrayal of the people who worked for them," he said.

"The KGB was an instrument of the party which was there to enforce and punish if people didn't toe the party line... the KGB was there to see that if policies were not carried out, people were pulled up short. Now there's no party, it's the government that runs the country and the KGB like any intelligence service will be the servant of the government, as it should be in a democratic society."

"It may have a different name, that's even very likely. But then, it's had different names in its history all along."

The week in print

House comes under fire

THE dominant topics in the media during the past week included the Middle East question, the repercussions of the major developments in the Soviet Union, Jordanian and Palestinian expatriates in the Gulf and a number of domestic issues.

A guest columnist in Sawt Al Shab said that like the Baltic republics in the southern regions of the Soviet Union will be in need of backing in the wake of their independence and, because they are predominantly Muslim, they will naturally be looking towards the Arab and Islamic nations for help.

Jihad Al Momani said that these republics have 50 million inhabitants, some of them are Jews who will be targeted by Israel which would demand their emigration.

The writer said that Arab countries are now called on not only to give more recognition to the newly independent Muslim republics, but also to forestall any Israeli move that would be detrimental to Arab interests.

Now that the Arabs have lost the friendship of the Soviet Union in the wake of the recent developments worldwide and inside the Soviet Union, the Arabs can at least win the support and friendship of the Islamic republics, said a columnist in Al Dustour daily.

Munes Al Razzaz said that there is now need to develop Arab and Islamic nations' relations with the new independent republics, particularly those that are close to Iran, Iraq and Turkey, whose future is bound to influence that of the Arab and Muslim world.

Al Dustour daily said in an editorial that the Arab and Islamic World should not allow Israel to exploit the situation in the wake of the downfall of the Soviet Union and the collapse of communism there. It said that the debacle should prompt the Arab and Islamic governments to initiate strong ties with the Muslim republics and prevent Israel from exploiting them and ensuring the emigration of the Jews to occupied Palestine.

Turning to the Middle East, Sawt Al Shab Arabic daily discussed the coming trip to the region by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

If reports from Washington are true about Mr. Baker's intention to assure the Arab countries that the U.S. administration considers the Golan Heights and Jerusalem as occupied territory, Mr. Baker is bound to achieve success in his coming mission, the paper noted.

It said that the late announcement by the U.S. administration that it is delaying a \$10 billion loan to Israel was also a positive development. What remains to be seen, said the paper, is Washington's real pressure on the Jewish state to force it to halt its settlement programme and comply with the will of the international community.

If Washington succeeds in convening the peace conference, it would achieve a third victory on the international level, following the aggression on Iraq, which destroyed the main Arab country's military might, and the dismemberment of the Soviet Union, which used to pose the main threat to the West, said a columnist in Sawt Al Shab daily.

Mustafa Abu Libdeh said that the United States is now in need of rewriting its foreign policy in light of the developments that happened in less than one year and is in need of proving its credibility by achieving a lasting peace in the Middle East.

The writer believed that Washington's next move in the Middle East is bound to achieve success given the new political realities of the world.

A columnist in Al Ra'i praised the efforts of the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) for its ongoing efforts to offer training to the unemployed Jordanians.

Ahmad Al Misheh said that training can open the door for the job-seekers to earn a decent living, but there is need now for the employers not to demand that an applicant should have five to 10 years experience to get a job.

Regent: Kuwait should compensate returnees

(Continued from page 1)

Why all these pressures on Jordan," the Crown Prince said. "Ultimately, (if the pressures continue, we will be) forced into where even if we say yes in name we cannot contribute to the process."

Throughout the interview, the Crown Prince made it clear that he did not view the expected impact on the demographic balance in Jordan — most of the returnees are of Palestinian origin — as constituting a threat to the regime's stability. His main concern, as he repeatedly emphasised, was that the resulting financial strain on Jordan's fragile economy will be the main source of any possible social tensions.

In his opinion, unemployment (according to a recent survey, more than 80 per cent of the returnees are now without jobs) could prove to be the most crucial political problem.

"This (unemployment) is a highly explosive issue," he warned.

The Crown Prince explained that unemployment will turn into an explosive political issue as the returnees, many of whom are highly skilled, will not find an opportunity to develop and use their talents and skills.

But if the returnees are provided with the chance to employ their entrepreneurial talents and skills they will in effect be a major factor of stability for the country.

The Crown Prince basically disagreed with the theory that the returnees would automatically turn to political or religious extremism as a result of despair.

He refused parallels being drawn between the returnees and the Palestinian refugees who came to Jordan after the creation of Israel in 1948 and the 1967 war, in terms of political extremism associated with Palestinian destination at the time.

"Most of them (the returnees) are middle class; and frankly to characterise them as the third migration — i.e. equate them with 1967 misery, nihilism and extremism — I think is a little bit quick and possibly wrong," he argued. "I mean these are entrepreneurs who contributed to stability of one of the most vital economic regions in the world — the Gulf."

"If their talents are recognised... and are allowed to be developed in a situation of stability, I think they can contribute effectively to the stability of Jordan."

But if Jordan continues "to be punished" and consequently the returnees' talents are frustrated then the issue can be very explosive.

The Crown Prince resented and dismissed suggestions that the fact that the majority of the returnees are Palestinian might have a negative effect on national unity or the political and social fabric of the country.

"I personally abhor such provincial thinking... I am not concerned with what percentage is of which origin or background... or whether they have lived with us or have not lived with us," he said.

Reiterating calls made by His Majesty King Hussein for Arab states to provide dual nationality for Palestinian and Arab expatriates, the Crown Prince stressed that the whole issue is linked to and hinges largely on finding a solution for the Arab-Israeli conflict in a way that will also take into account the limited resources in the region.

"In the end, politically speaking, it is very clear that Jordan, the West Bank, Israel and Palestine cannot absorb all of the Jewish migrants of the world or all of the Palestinian migrants of the world," he said.

In the interview the Crown Prince also indicated that the emerging situation in the post-Gulf war era and the prevalent Western and Gulf states' policies indicate that countries like Jordan, which are not part of the post-war set-up, will pay the price.

He cautioned that the post-Gulf war set-up in the region, including the new security arrangements, will be at the expense of those who are trying to pursue an independent line and are not part of the emerging economic and security pact.

"We are habbat jahannam (the hell's woodfire)," he said.

U.N. chief suggests mechanism for Iraqi sales

(Continued from page 1)

Gulf war operations.

In Baghdad, the head of a U.N. team inspecting Iraq's stocks of chemical weapons said Friday he wanted to discuss some of its findings with Iraqi authorities.

Johan Santesson, a Swedish World Health Organisation official, said his 26-member team had inspected seven chemical weapons sites since beginning its mission last weekend.

Asked if the team had found any weapons not previously declared, he said: "We have found some things which we will have to consider and discuss a little bit, but our main interest has been in verifying the Iraqi declarations of chemical munitions at various sites."

Mr. Santesson added: "The Iraqi government has disclosed a number of chemical weapons in a series of declarations to the United Nations. The number of chemical weapons they disclosed increased with each new declaration and whether Iraq possesses further chemical weapons that they have not declared, I can't say. I sincerely hope by now that they have declared all their pos-

sitions."

Asked what the new findings were that needed discussion with Iraqi authorities, he replied: "I cannot elaborate on that before I report to the executive chairman of the United Nations Special Commission."

Mr. Santesson's team was the third chemical weapons inspection mission to Iraq under the terms of the Gulf war ceasefire, which orders Baghdad to destroy all its weapons of mass destruction.

A fourth chemical mission, which spent four days supervising the destruction of thousands of bombs and shells designed to carry chemical warheads, left on Thursday.

A fourth ballistic missile inspection team arrived in the Iraqi capital Friday for a week-long stay.

Tom Brock, head of the 17-member group, said its mission was to inspect sites in western Iraq from where Scud missiles were fired at Saudi Arabia and Israel during the Gulf war.

A third such mission last month examined Iraq's project to build two "superguns."

Moscow grants independence to Baltic states

(Continued from page 1)

in the three countries. He did not mention a figure.

Baltic leaders took advantage of the power vacuum created by the failed hardline coup of Aug. 18-21 to step up demands for international recognition of their sometimes violent independence drive.

All but five of the 15 Soviet republics have declared independence.

On Monday, U.S. President George Bush recognised the Baltics. About 50 countries have also extended recognition since the coup.

Senior American and British envoys reestablished diplomatic

links in the Baltics Wednesday, joining a bandwagon that has brought dozens of top Western officials there since the coup.

The United States, Britain, France and other Western countries never officially recognised the forced takeover of the Baltics but had withheld formal recognition out of consideration for Mr. Gorbachev, who had opposed it.

Josef Stalin's Soviet government had signed a non-aggression pact in 1939 with Adolf Hitler's Nazi Germany, including a secret protocol placing the Baltics and parts of eastern Poland in the Soviet sphere of influence.

Soviet annexation of the Baltic republics came a year later.

The renewed quest for freedom began when Lithuania declared independence on March 11, 1990, after the country's first truly free elections brought a secessionist government to power. Mr. Gorbachev called the declaration illegal and imposed an embargo on oil, natural gas and other critical supplies to the tiny republic for several weeks.

Latvia and Estonia quickly followed along the road to independence but pursued a less confrontational path. Instead of declaring immediate independence, they announced their intention to secede after an undefined transition period.

In a crackdown last January, more than 20 people were killed in the Lithuanian capital of Riga.

He did not mention a figure.

Baltic leaders took advantage of the power vacuum created by the failed hardline coup of Aug. 18-21 to step up demands for international recognition of their sometimes violent independence drive.

All but five of the 15 Soviet

republics have declared independence.

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Senior American and British envoys reestablished diplomatic

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The United States, Britain, France and other Western countries never officially recognised the forced takeover of the Baltics but had withheld formal recognition out of consideration for Mr. Gorbachev, who had opposed it.

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Soviet annexation of the Baltic republics came a year later.

The renewed quest for freedom began when Lithuania declared

independence on March 11, 1990, after the country's first truly free elections brought a secessionist government to power. Mr. Gorbachev called the declaration illegal and imposed an embargo on oil, natural gas and other critical supplies to the tiny republic for several weeks.

Latvia and Estonia quickly

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Connors reaches U.S. Open semis

NEW YORK (AP) — Jimmy Connors didn't need a miracle to reach the semifinals of the U.S. Open, just a psych-ed-out opponent who cracked under pressure and let him steal the match at the net.

Connors methodically took apart Dutchman Paul Haarhuis 4-6, 7-6 (7-3), 6-4, 6-2 Thursday night before another frenzied crowd of nearly 20,000 fans. He became at age 39, the oldest semifinalist since Ken Rosewall in 1974.

But Connors will have to play a higher grade of tennis to get past his next opponent, French Open champion Jim Courier, who knocked off his friend and willing foil, Pete Sampras, the brooding defending champ.

Ivan Lendl, a master of his own universe in five-set epics, is just as happy after knocking off Wimbledon champ Michael Stich to reach the semis here for the ninth time in 10 years.

Connors, a wild card tournament entry who is ranked 174th in the world, reached that round for a record 14th time and is two victories away from his sixth open title. The last player to win as many as six open titles was Bill Tilden, who won his seventh in 1929.

"Is this for real?" Connors wondered aloud as his achievement sank in. "I can't describe this to you, the highs, the lows. It'll take six months before I can tell you what happened here, and it's not over yet."

Haarhuis, who beat top-ranked Boris Becker in the third round, dominated an unsettled Connors early in the first set, then backed off and allowed him to take control.

Retreating totally to the baseline, Haarhuis ceded the net to Connors and eventually made more and more errors on ground-

strokes as the pressure from Connors and the crowd grew.

"I've learned that I can't stay back time after time. It will wear me out," Connors said.

Haarhuis said Connors bothered him more than the crowd.

"I had a chance in the second set to serve it out," Haarhuis said. "He's shown this week that he's come back many times. It was a mistake for me to let the second set go. I started making too many errors."

Connors turned the match around at a most propitious moment, after he was broken at love and trailed 5-4 in the second set. Haarhuis then served for the set, but at 30-40 seemingly intimidated Haarhuis' four weak overheads of desperate lobs by Connors before Connors ripped a hanging backhand past him for the break.

The crowd stood and gave Connors a thunderous ovation, then roared some more when he held and pushed the set into a tiebreaker. When Connors won the tiebreaker on a hard forehand at Haarhuis' chest, and Haarhuis tapped back a self-defence volley into the net, the match was even at one set apiece but virtually everyone knew that Connors had turned it around and was heading toward victory.

"That was the point of the match that turned the whole tide," Connors said. "In the third set, I started seeing everything. The balls were looking like baseballs. I saw the ball as well as I've ever seen it."

Connors said that as the match wore on he could see the fear in Haarhuis' eyes and his stride shorten, and said to himself, "let's get it over."

If Connors is pleased with himself, Courier is no less so. There is no pressure; no wor-

ries for Courier, even if the scrappy young Floridian does feel like a total foreigner in New York. For Sampras, there is only blessed relief from the burden he felt he carried since becoming the youngest open men's winner a year ago.

Courier, 21, the surprise French Open champion over Andre Agassi, ascended to the top rank of the new generation of American men's players with a 6-2, 7-6 (7-4) victory over Sampras.

Lendl, 31, remained the leader of the older generation of players with a 6-3, 3-6, 4-6, 7-6 (7-5), 6-1 win over Stich that put him into the semifinals against Stefan Edberg.

"I couldn't get the tiebreaker out of my mind, and I just gave it away," Stich said. "I gave it to him on a plate, and he took it. I choked a bit on the important points."

Lendl, who won a five-setter in the first round and two four-setters along the way, pounced on Stich in final set of a match that was suspended by rain Tuesday night with Lendl losing 4-3, 40-15, on Stich's serve in the third set.

Courier, the only men's semifinalist not to drop a set in a set in five matches, took target practice at Sampras with forehands that seemed shot out of a cannon and serves that kicked by for 14 aces, including the winning points in the first and second sets.

Seles, Capriati face off for No. 1 spot

Only Jennifer Capriati stands between Monica Seles and No. 1.

The two teenagers battle Friday for a spot in Saturday's U.S. open final. Seles would regain the top spot in the computer rankings by being in the final, whether she wins or loses. The other semifinal

is between Graf and Wiesner.

Connors, Capriati face off for No. 1 spot



Jimmy Connors

suffered a torn shoulder muscle that sidelined her until the U.S. Open began nearly two weeks ago. And the matches now are tougher than when she was winning everything in sight.

"I think people had an attitude, sometimes, going into the match, not really believing," said Graf, who no longer is considered invincible. While she has yet to

drop a set in this year's tournament, she had two battles early: Beating Eva Ssvigurova 6-4, 7-5 and Judith Wiesner 7-5, 6-4.

Now comes Navratilova, who is seeking her fifth U.S. Open singles title, but her first since 1987.

"I haven't played a serve-and-volley in a long time," Graf said. "But I think it is more up to me, what I am going to do out there."

competition may also turn into a Soviet intra-squad contest.

South Africa will not field full teams, but its gymnasts — four women and two men — are eligible to compete for individual honours.

"We will take great experience from these games no matter the results," said team chief Kobus Sceepers, who agreed they were unlikely to take home any medals.

The Soviet men are virtual certainties to win Tuesday's team final and Thursday's all-around

competition may also turn into a Soviet intra-squad contest.

Not since 1974 has a Soviet man failed to win an all-around title at a World Championship or Olympic Games at which the country competed.

Igor Korobchinski returns to defend the world title he won in Stuttgart. Goodwill Games champion Vitaly Scherbo and World Cup champion Valery Belenki are his biggest threats.

Valeri Liukin has performed consistently since winning the Olympic silver in Seoul.

Atkinson is set to make changes at Aston Villa

LONDON (R) — Aston Villa manager Ron Atkinson is set to make changes to his side for Saturday's English first division game with Tottenham Hotspur at Villa Park.

Atkinson was furious after Villa slumped to a 1-0 home defeat against Crystal Palace Wednesday, a result which means they have taken just one point out of the last nine.

"After the events of Wednesday night I might well decide it is time to make changes," he said.

"I would not have been so concerned if the 1-0 defeat had come on the back of a few decent performances — but that was not the case," added Atkinson, who took over at Villa during the close season.

Trinidad and Tobago international Dwight Yorke is likely to return to the Villa starting line-up.

Yeltsin sees all-Soviet sports team at Barcelona

MOSCOW (R) — There could be an all-Soviet Union team at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics despite the rapid break-up of the country into more or less separate republics, Russian President Boris Yeltsin said Friday.

"I think there should be a combined team for the country," Mr. Yeltsin said while appearing with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev in a live television link-up with the United States.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH HIRSCH
©1990 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

SET UP THE RIGHT SUIT

North-South vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♦ A Q 5 3
♦ J 8 6
♦ Void
♦ A K 8 6 2

WEST
+ 6
+ A 2
+ J 8 7 5 3 2
+ Q J 7 4
+ K 5
+ K 10 9 7 3
+ K Q 10
+ 5 3

SOUTH
+ K 5
+ K 10 9 7 3
+ K Q 10
+ 5 3

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 NT Pass 3 ♠ Pass
3 NT Pass 5 ♠ Pass
6 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ace of ♠
If you think you've spotted the best line for your contract, look again. You might have overlooked a way of combining several possibilities that would greatly improve your odds.

North chose to respond two clubs rather than one spade, since that would save a round of bidding later. When South could not support a black suit, North settled on a heart contract and left the final decision of how high to go to partner. With

such a good heart suit, South's decision to carry on was commendable.

West got off to a good lead with ace of hearts and another, removing two of dummy's trumps and complicating declarer's life somewhat. Since one diamond could be ruffed in dummy and one discarded on the queen of spades, declarer needed only to set up one long card in dummy. Spades were the logical suit to attack, so declarer cashed the king and crossed to the queen of spades and ruffed the queen. West's diamond dummy was a sure blow, but all was not yet lost. Declarer discarded the ten of diamonds on the ace of spades, cashed the ace and king of clubs and ruffed a club, hoping for an even split. When that did not materialize, declarer fell back on a last chance — a ruffing finesse in diamonds. The king was led and run — down one.

There was one chance declarer did not explore — a 4-2 club break. After winning the second trump, declarer should first have cashed the table's high clubs. When both defenders follow, the contract is safe. Declarer can ruff a club, cash the king of spades and cross to the queen of spades to ruff another club, setting up the long card. A diamond ruff provides an entry to dummy, and the ace of spades and long club take care of the two remaining diamonds in the closed hand.

Soviets set for medals sweep at gymnastics meet

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana (R) — Although the Soviet Union is once again set to dominate the world gymnastics championships, most attention will be focused on the South African team in the coming week.

The championships, which start Saturday, will be the first in an Olympic sport to include South African athletes since the republic began dismantling apartheid this year.

"For a long time now we have wanted to welcome all nations into our world competitions,"

said Yuri Titov, president of the International Gymnastics Federation. "This is overdue."

South Africa will not field full teams, but its gymnasts — four women and two men — are eligible to compete for individual honours.

"We will take great experience from these games no matter the results," said team chief Kobus Sceepers, who agreed they were unlikely to take home any medals.

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Valeri Liukin has performed consistently since winning the Olympic silver in Seoul.

Senna takes provisional pole at Italian GP

MONZA, Italy (R) — World Champion Ayrton Senna claimed provisional pole position for Sunday's Italian Grand Prix when he outpaced his nearest rival Nigel Mansell by just two-tenths of a second Friday.

Senna, who leads this year's title race by 22 points, steered his McLaren round the high-speed 5.8 km Monza track in a best time of one minute and 21.114 second

midway through the hour-long session.

British Mansell, who desperately needs a victory this weekend to keep alive his challenge to Senna, was second fastest in a time of 1:21.328 which he clocked in his spare car and after a lap beset by unexpected problems.

The worst of these was when the World engine of the Lola of Japan's Aguri Suzuki blew up in

front of him, depositing oil on the track as Mansell approached the chicane.

The Englishman had to drive through a screen of dust and smoke and survived a few very scary seconds at high speed before continuing his lap.

"It was a nasty moment," he said afterwards.

Senna's McLaren team mate Austrian Gerhard Berger was

third-quickest in 1:21.360 ahead of Riccardo Patrese of Italy in the second Williams who clocked 1:21.619.

Frenchman Jean Alesi, in a Ferrari, encouraged the Italian team's army of local supporters by clocking the fifth-best time of 1:21.956 with his team mate and fellow-Frenchman Alain Prost sixth behind him in 1:22.080.

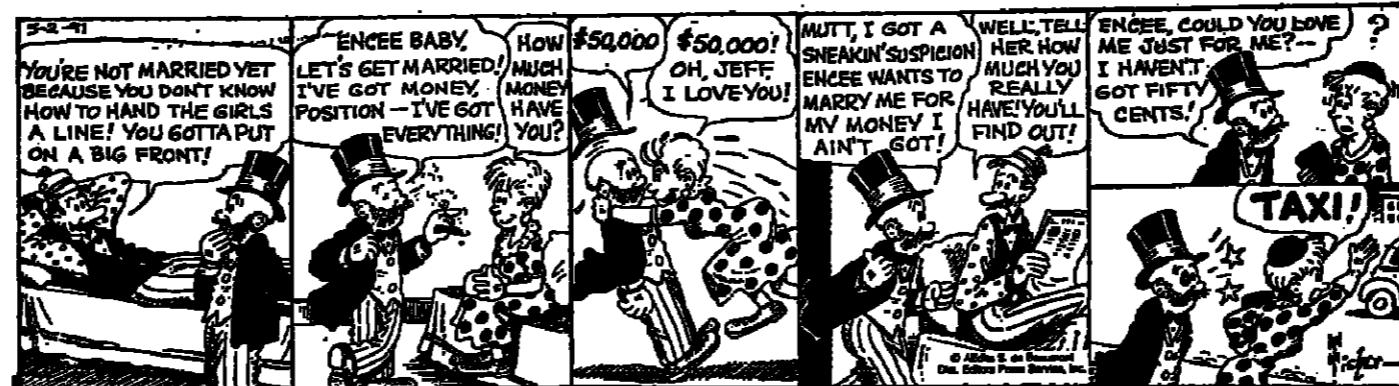
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Mostly every one will be in a practical frame of mind this Moon in Virgo Saturday wanting to make the changes in their lives that will allow for a more prosperous and abundant existence.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Until mid-afternoon some outside matter can be delayed or cause you deep concern but the evening should be good for doing most anything that you wish.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) This is your time to show you can stick to the plan of action you have already organized the evening when you can get off to new areas.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Now you can really value and appreciate your ability to understand what is expected of you and gain greatly by showing good friends how much you admire them.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) A day when much is apt to distract you comes into the open until the evening when you can go out on the town and have some fun.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) This is your time to spend the day ridding yourself of limitations or obstacles and then you find tonight you have the inspiration to gain aspiration and be happy.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Be change to friends even though they seem to be in the damps during the daytime but tonight you can see ways and means to have more income.

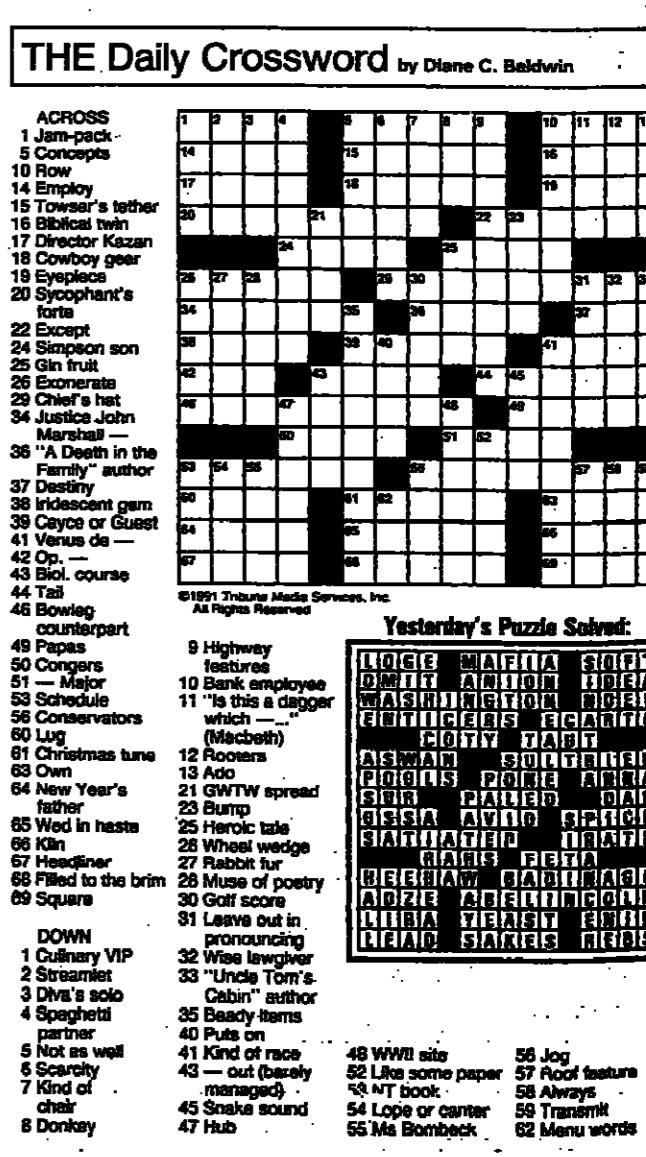
THE BETTER HALF

By Barnes



THE Daily Crossword

by Diane C. Baldwin



Financial Markets in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

| U.S. Dollar in International Markets | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Currency | NEW YORK CLOSE Date 4/9/91 |
| | TOKYO CLOSE Date 5/9/91 |
| Sterling Pound | 1.6950 1.6949 |
| Deutsche Mark | 1.7573 1.7575 |
| Swiss Franc | 1.5220 1.5235 |
| French Franc | 5.9000 5.9085 ** |
| Japanese Yen | 135.49 135.32 |
| European Currency Unit | 1.7830 1.7810 ** |

* USD Per STG ** European Opened at 200 U.S. Cents

Foreign currency interest rates Date: 5/9/91

| Currency | 1 MTH | 3 MTHS | 6 MTHS | 12 MTHS |
|------------------------|-------|--------|--------|---------|
| U.S. Dollar | 5.62 | 5.62 | 5.68 | 5.65 |
| Sterling Pound | 10.37 | 10.25 | 10.12 | 10.12 |
| Deutsche Mark | 9.00 | 9.12 | 9.25 | 9.31 |
| Swiss Franc | 7.93 | 7.87 | 7.75 | 7.75 |
| French Franc | 9.12 | 9.31 | 9.31 | 9.43 |
| Japanese Yen | 7.37 | 6.93 | 6.68 | 6.56 |
| European Currency Unit | 9.62 | 9.71 | 9.71 | 9.75 |

Interest bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Previous Metals Date: 5/9/91

| Metal | USD/Oz | JD/Gm ² | Metal | USD/Oz | JD/Gm |
|-------|--------|--------------------|--------|--------|-------|
| Gold | 348.0 | 6.80 | Silver | 3.89 | .090 |

* 21 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 5/9/91

| Currency | Bid | Offer |
|----------------|--------|--------|
| U.S. Dollar | .689 | .691 |
| Sterling Pound | 1.1660 | 1.1718 |
| Deutsche Mark | .3961 | .3981 |
| Swiss Franc | .4516 | .4539 |
| French Franc | .1166 | .1172 |
| Japanese Yen | .3091 | .3116 |
| Dutch Guilder | .3517 | .3535 |
| Swedish Krona | .1092 | .1097 |
| Italian Lira | .0531 | .0534 |
| Belgian Franc | .01925 | .01955 |

* Per 100

Other Currencies Date: 5/9/91

| Currency | Bid | Offer |
|----------------|--------|--------|
| Bahrain Dinar | 1.7600 | 1.7650 |
| Lebanese Lira | .0770 | .0780 |
| Saudi Riyal | .1854 | .1841 |
| Kuwaiti Dinar | | |
| Qatari Riyal | .1864 | .1860 |
| Egyptian Pound | .2100 | .2200 |
| Omani Riyal | 1.7400 | 1.7550 |
| UAE Dirham | .1864 | .1860 |
| Greek Drachma | .3500 | .3600 |
| Cypriot Pound | 1.4250 | 1.4250 |

* Per 100

CAS Indices for Amman Financial Market²

| Index | 5/9/91 | Close | 4/9/91 | Close |
|------------------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| All-Share | 107.61 | 107.17 | | |
| Banking Sector | 100.93 | 100.30 | | |
| Insurance Sector | 117.12 | 117.12 | | |
| Industry Sector | 114.34 | 114.16 | | |
| Services Sector | 128.86 | 128.46 | | |

December 31, 1990 = 100

| LONDON EXCHANGE RATES ³ | |
|--|------------------|
| LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday. | |
| One Sterling | 1.6945/55 |
| One U.S. dollar | 1.1395/1400 |
| | U.S. dollar |
| 1.7370/80 | Canadian dollar |
| 1.9550/60 | Deutsche Marks |
| 1.5260/70 | Dutch guilders |
| 35.71/76 | Swiss francs |
| 5.9000/50 | Belgian francs |
| 1295/1296 | French francs |
| 135.90/136.00 | Italian lire |
| 6.3035/85 | Japanese yen |
| 6.7825/75 | Norwegian crowns |
| 6.7010/60 | Danish crowns |
| 347.00/50 | U.S. dollars |

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Cinema | Tel: 677420 |
| CONCORD | |
| ★ SQUEEZE | Show: 5:15, 6:30 |
| ★ ZAPPED! | |
| Show: 3:30, 6:45, 10:30 | |

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Cinema | Tel: 675571 |
| NIJOUN | |
| To Be Opened Soon | Nabil Mashini Theatre |

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 10:30 p.m.

Aluminium Bahrain signs \$100m loan

MANAMA (R) — Aluminium Bahrain BSC (Alba) has signed a \$110 million loan with a consortium of foreign banks for a programme to cut pollution and expand output.

An Alba spokesman said the five-year loan was in addition to a \$1.45 billion plan to double capacity to 460,000 tonnes per year by 1992. Alba had drawn down about \$390 million of a \$650 million commercial loan signed in July 1991, he said.

A spokesman for Bahrain-based Arab Banking Corporation (ABC) — which with Chase Manhattan and Riyad Bank arranged the new loan — said it carried an interest rate of 3% point over the London Inter Bank Offered Rate.

Alba executives said the loan would finance a retrofit programme for 446 reduction cells in the existing smelter.

This would boost production by 20,000 tonnes a year from 210,000 at present in addition to minimising air pollution and improving the working environment at the 20-year old smelter.

Alba, which already has biggest aluminium smelter in the Gulf will complete an expansion

plan making it one of the biggest smelters in the world in about a year.

The programme includes the building of two pot rooms, an 800 megawatt power station and a carbon plant.

Alba is also expanding its equity base by \$144 million. When the injection is complete, the Bahrain government will hold a 77 per cent stake in Alba instead of 74.9% overall.

The Saudi Public Investment Fund holds 20 per cent of the company and West German owned investment group Breton Investment 5.1 per cent.

Meanwhile, the Bahraini Saudi Aluminium Marketing Co BSC (Balco) said it sold 205,789 tonnes of aluminium in 1990 worth \$408 million.

Balco, owned jointly by the Bahraini government and the Saudi Arabia Basic Industries Corporation (SABIC), said in a statement it sold 193,438 tonnes of aluminium in 1989 worth \$408 million.

Balco Deputy General Manager Salman Mohanna said lower aluminium prices worldwide in 1990 caused the slump in the company's revenue.

Egypt looks for coal as chaos in Soviet Union jams trade deal

CAIRO (R) — Cash-strapped Egypt is looking for 300,000 tonnes of coal on the open market after political and economic chaos in the Soviet Union disrupted a barter deal between the two states worth \$700 million.

But with its economy in tatters, the Soviet Union's exports to Egypt have plummeted — strikes in Siberian mines early this year have left the country short of coal itself.

"We have received a little over 200,000 tonnes of the 500,000 tonnes of coal agreed under the protocol," Mohan Shalib, chairman of the government's Foreign Trade Corporation (FTC), told Reuters.

"We hope for the rest by the end of the year," he added. "Whether we continue to trade (with the Soviet Union) depends on whether we take a long-term view. It's a political decision."

However one trade source said the state-owned Nasr Coke Company was already in talks with American and Australian firms to buy its coal shortfall with cash.

"Our representative in Moscow has made contact with the new political leadership," said

imports of 1.5 million tonnes.

Egypt's 1991 trade protocol with the Soviet Union — barter exchanges largely between state firms arranged by government trading agencies — is worth \$700 million.

But with its economy in tatters, the Soviet Union's exports to Egypt have plummeted — strikes in Siberian mines early this year have left the country short of coal itself.

"It will be very difficult to fulfill our obligations for the protocol," a Soviet trade official based in Cairo said.

Egyptian traders have also been caught out by the breakup of the Soviet Union into separate republics. Many who have already exported goods to federal Soviet companies say they are now unsure about who they are trading with.

"Our representative in Moscow has made contact with the new political leadership," said

Mohammed El Gamal, a senior official at FTC. "But nothing's clear. Most of our exports are being held back."

While Soviet politicians set about debating terms for eventual economic union among its republics, Egypt — with many state firms — Nasr may have to find over \$25 million to buy the extra coal — just as the government is due to implement economic reforms agreed with the International Monetary Fund and cut off subsidies to them.

Egypt's overall trade deficit last year reached 17.8 billion pounds (\$5.4 billion).

Trade with other former communist countries in eastern Europe has also dropped as centrally-planned protocols have folded and individual firms lack hard currency to buy Egyptian exports.

Egypt contracted to sell more than twice the amount of cotton it actually exported last year. It held back consignments to Romania and other countries when they fell short on their side of trade agreements.

Soviet republics rally behind 'economic community' plan

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet republics are rallying behind a plan by radical market economist Stanislav Shatalin to create a new economic community, possibly embracing central European countries.

The convention has already been approved and signed by experts from 13 (of the 15) republics. Two more are expected to sign tomorrow, "Soviet television reported.

Mr. Shatalin outlined the plan on Tuesday's Television News Service (TSN) after leaders of the Russian Federation, the biggest Soviet republic, suggested such an agreement could help stave off economic collapse in the wake of last month's abortive hardline coup.

"I have spoken to ambassadors from Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Poland and Bulgaria. They will inform their leaders and within a week we expect a reply from



Stanislav Shatalin these countries," Mr. Shatalin said.

Fighting flares in Croatia on eve of peace talks

BELGRADE (R) — Ethnic violence raged in the breakaway Republic of Croatia Friday despite European Community (EC) warnings that more fighting may sabotage a peace conference on Yugoslavia.

EC envoy Henri Wijnaendts and Yugoslavia's collective presidency tried to save the talks, set to begin in the Hague Saturday, with the participation of the presidents of the six feuding Yugoslav republics.

But appeals for a ceasefire, negotiated by the EC Monday, to be allowed to take effect were ignored by the sides involved in the fighting.

Zagreb Radio said clashes continued around Nova Gradiska, a town close to where Serbian guerrillas and units of the Yugoslav army this week closed the Zagreb-Belgrade motorway which was the last road link between central and eastern Croatia.

"Fire is coming from all kinds of light and heavy weapons while several tank shells have landed on the suburbs of this town," the radio reported.

It said Croatian forces tried to dislodge guerrillas and troops

blocking the motorway.

Six people were wounded in fighting at nearby Ukcani and the radio said the town of Vinkovci in eastern Croatia came under mortar fire which landed near a hospital.

The radio said fierce fighting in which two died and 18 were wounded erupted in Osijek, the chief town in eastern Croatia, Thursday evening.

The battle started within minutes of Mr. Wijnaendts obtaining a promise from Croatian and army forces that neither would open fire first.

The radio accused army tanks and mortar units of siding with the guerrillas in a "treacherous attack" which began 15 minutes after the EC team left Osijek.

Mr. Wijnaendts's message to the combatants in eastern Croatia was: "A complete halt to the fighting is a precondition for a peace conference."

Former British Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington, who is to preside at the talks, also said fighting had to stop if negotiations were to begin.

Serbian guerrillas, sometimes with army help, have seized control of border areas of Croatia.



An improvised Croatian armoured car patrols the road south of Zagreb, in an area that has come under attack by Serbians

Gorbachev, Yeltsin say communism has failed

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Mikhail Gorbachev and Boris Yeltsin spoke to people from around the United States Friday about the upheaval in the Soviet Union, and the two leaders agreed that communism had failed in their country.

Sitting side by side in matching gold and ivory chairs in the glittering St. George's Hall in the Kremlin, they discussed everything from nuclear weapons to their own stormy relationship, in an electronic communion with callers ranging from Soviet exiles in New York to a Los Angeles actor.

In one of the more dramatic moments in the television broadcast on the U.S. network ABC, the two leaders were asked if they believed any country should live under communism, given the Soviet experience.

Mr. Yeltsin said it was a "tragedy for our people. And it was too bad it happened on our territory. It would have been better if it had happened in some smaller country."

Mr. Gorbachev agreed that the experience "has allowed us to say in a decision fashion that the model has failed."

But he added: "I believe that it would be on our part somewhat pretentious to indicate to other peoples how they should live."

The two also welcomed Soviet exiles to return, promised help for American investors, and tried to assure questioners that the Soviet nuclear arsenal was in good hands.

A questioner from Atlanta who

identified himself as Oleg Myskin, a defector who said he had had problems with the KGB, was assured by Mr. Yeltsin, "there is no more danger... please come back."

On Thursday, Mr. Gorbachev and Mr. Yeltsin worked together to gain approval of an interim government for the Soviet Union and a programme to begin a transition toward a new confederation of sovereign states.

The new system would end more than 70 years of Kremlin rule under the Communist Party and reorganise the Soviet government to give many powers to Soviet republics. As more and more of the 15 republics sought independence, the Soviet Union set up after the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution was threatened with disintegration.

The political upheaval followed an Aug. 18-21 coup attempt by a group of officials who tried to oust Mr. Gorbachev as president of the Soviet Union and end his reform moves. The coup collapsed and its leaders were arrested.

Peter Jennings, the host, said he had studio audiences in Philadelphia, Chicago, Detroit, Miami, Los Angeles, San Francisco and New York City. The show was also broadcast in the Soviet Union at 7 a.m. local time (1000 GMT).

Mr. Jennings asked the two men how they got along.

Once upon a time that was a difficult question. A good deal of water has passed through the bridge," Mr. Gorbachev said.

A questioner from Atlanta who

said he controls Soviet nuclear weapons now and what protections are in place against their accidental use.

"No one should have any anxiety in this regard," Mr. Gorbachev said. "There is a very rigid mechanism that excludes the possibility of any surprises."

The two leaders spoke in Russian and ABC provided an English translation.

All Soviet nuclear weapons could be moved to the Russian Federation, Mr. Yeltsin said.

"I think there will be a process of moving the weapons from the Ukraine and Kazakhstan to the Russian Federation," he said.

"Why? Because the main thing is our responsibility for control of nuclear weapons, and not only for nuclear weapons," Mr. Yeltsin said.

Mr. Yeltsin said control over nuclear arms would be "centralised, territorial and very strict."

Mr. Gorbachev added: "No one should have any worries on this account."

Protests against president of Georgia intensify

TBILISI, USSR (AP) — Protests against Georgian President Zviad Gamsakhurdia intensified Thursday as his opponents told a rally the reputable traded a Communist dictatorship for one based on nationalism.

Thousands marched on government house for the fourth day of protests after Georgian Interior Ministry troops dispersed Monday's demonstration with gunfire, wounding at least five people.

Thursday's protests were peaceful, however, as flag-waving crowds were kept from government house by regular police and buses lined up end-to-end.

In the latest rally, a broad front of opposition parties demanded Mr. Gamsakhurdia's resignation and new legislative elections, saying Gamsakhurdia maintained a socialist system under his personal control.

As crowds formed for the rally, a column of soldiers rolled past, many slapping open palms with the marchers. Other raised fists in salute.

After Monday, soldiers from the republic's National Guard — until recently known as Mr. Gamsakhurdia's private army — said they would not control crowds or shoot on Georgia.

Speaker after speaker used the

word "dictatorship" at the rally.

Mr. Gamsakhurdia, a former dissident, was elected president in May by a landslide. Since then, criticism against him has risen sharply.

As tension mounted this week, Mr. Gamsakhurdia's government has closed all Georgian newspapers, saying they would be replaced. The government already controls television and radio.

Mr. Gamsakhurdia also banned some food, mineral and other exports to other republics.

Opposition to the president increased after Georgian Prime Minister Tezhig Segua and Foreign Minister Georgi Khostanov resigned in mid-August. Each cited government incompetence, corruption and threats to democracy.

In a joint interview with the Associated Press, both described what they called purposeful strides towards dictatorship.

The independent media are uprooted," Mr. Segua said. "If we follow the road we're on, we will end up with a closed state mode closed after Albania, with all the consequences."

Mr. Segua said after he resigned, Mr. Gamsakhurdia used "Stalin-like tactics" to follow his movement and intimidate him.

Vanuatu premier replaced

PORT VILA, Vanuatu (R) — Vanuatu's embattled Prime Minister Father Walter Lini lost power Friday to the challenger he once said he wanted to succeed him.

Fr. Lini, leader of the tiny South Pacific nation since independence in 1980, was succeeded by former Education and Foreign Minister Donald Kalpokas, one of several ministers he sacked from his cabinet earlier this year.

Under attack for what many saw as his dictatorial and undemocratic behaviour, 48-year-

old Fr. Lini lost a no-confidence vote in parliament by 24 votes to 21.

Eighteen members of his ruling Vanuatu'ku Pati defected and voted in alliance with the minority opposition Tan Union.

Mr. Kalpokas later won a secret ballot by 25 votes to 21 in an election for Fr. Lini's successor.

Mr. Kalpokas earlier told parliament Fr. Lini had breached the constitution by denying freedom of expression which had included imposing censorship on the national broadcaster, Radio Vanuatu.

Remnants of Liberian army invade guerrilla territory to oust Taylor

West African army forced an armistice.

A West African peace plan has stalled over Mr. Taylor's refusal to disarm his army, the largest in the West African nation.

The invaders appeared to have the blessing of Sierra Leone, which has been fighting since mid-March to repulse an invasion by Mr. Taylor's rebels and a small Sierra Leonean rebel group.

Sierra Leone's army reported Thursday it had taken the Mano River bridge, the main link between Sierra Leone and Liberia. This appeared to open the way for the Libyans to attack Tieni, which is on the main road to the bridge to Monrovia.

The station said the invaders attacked Wednesday and rebels were battling them in the village of Tiemba, 110 kilometres north west of Monrovia, the capital, and 12 kilometres from the Sierra Leone border.

Tiemba had been destroyed and hundreds of civilians had been slaughtered, according to Mr. Taylor's radio station. The station has often exaggerated casualty figures in the past, and its latest report could not be independently verified.

The fighting, which also was reported by the British Broadcasting Corp. (BBC), appeared to indicate that another round of bloodshed was beginning in the 20-month-old civil conflict in Liberia that claimed more than 10,000 lives last year before a

Lenin's last wish may come true

MOSCOW (AP) — The mayor of a city where the Soviet Union began has proposed a fitting ending to the Soviet system: Burying its founder.

Leningrad Mayor Anatoly Sobchak suggested Thursday that the parliamentary session that disbanded the country's monolithic power structure should conclude with a decision to inter the body of Vladimir I. Lenin.

"I propose to end our congress in a dignified manner and adopt the following decision: Fulfill the last wish of... Lenin and bury him in accordance with religious and national traditions and customs," Mr. Sobchak said to applause from fellow lawmakers.

President Mikhail Gorbachev said that while he was "not rejecting" the proposal of Leningrad's radical mayor, "I think we should deal with this problem wisely and quietly."

"We should deal with that whenever the new Supreme Soviet (legislature) gets together," Mr. Gorbachev said, ending the discussion.

Except for a brief period during World War II, Lenin's embalmed body has been on public display for 56 years in a glass-covered sarcophagus inside a marble mausoleum on Red Square, one of the most sacred Soviet shrines.

Lenin's reputation has suffered as Communist power diminishes, especially since last month's failed coup. Voters in Mr. Sobchak's Leningrad decided earlier this year to recommend changing the city's name back to St. Petersburg, and his statues have been removed throughout the Soviet Union for months.

An early suggestion for removing his body from the mausoleum came in April 1989, from a stage director speaking on Soviet television. Writer Yuri Karyakin renewed the suggestion in June 1989 at the Congress of People's Deputies.

Outside his tomb Thursday, Soviets have mixed feelings about disturbing Lenin's remains.

"It's our history, and it should stay the way it is, regardless of whether it's bad or good," said telegraph operator Yuri Karushin. "Why are we breaking our history?"

"Let them tear everything down," said Vladimir Maksimov, a worker. "It's a grave. Why are there graves on Red Square? People used to sell things here, have fun here, now they've turned the whole square into a grave."

To electrician Yuri Petrin, it was a matter of honouring Lenin's own wishes: "He requested to be buried where his mother is buried. That would be the most just decision, both for human and Christian reasons."

Although Mr. Sobchak referred to religious burial, Lenin was a strident atheist, and would not have wished for any church involvement. The Soviet founder did, however, want to be buried next to his mother in Leningrad's Volkovskoye Cemetery.

His widow, Nadezhda Krupskaya, bitterly opposed interment of Lenin in an above-ground mausoleum where his body could be viewed, but she was overruled by the party leaders, including Josef Stalin.

Column

Marilyn Monroe 'born with sixth toe'

LONDON (R) — An early picture of Marilyn Monroe apparently proving the Hollywood movie goddess was born with six toes to her left foot appeared in Britain's tabloid Daily Mirror. A Mirror story killed as exclusive said the tiny flaw, later removed by surgery, had been kept secret until now. The newspaper quoted a spokeswoman for the birth defect foundation as saying: "I suppose it took this long to come out because no one ever looked below her knee."

Travolta marries Kelly Preston in Paris

LOS ANGELES (R) — John Travolta, star of the hit dance movies Saturday Night Fever and Grease, secretly married actress Kelly Preston in Paris, his Los Angeles publicist said. Paul Bloch, said the 37-year-old star and his 28-year-old bride, took their vows in a private ceremony at the Hotel De Crillon in Paris. The couple recently announced they were expecting the birth of their first child next spring. Bloch said the two met while starring in the film The Experts in Vancouver, British Columbia, in 1988, and their romance blossomed when they met again making separate movies there that year. The couple are in France to attend the premiere of The Tender, starring Travolta, at the Deauville Film Festival. Travolta first made his mark on Hollywood as a crackling high school smart girl Vinnie Barbaro in a 1970s hit TV series Welcome Back Kotter.

Beauty before brains, says Thai air boss

BANGKOK (R) — Air stewardesses should have beauty not brains, says the boss of Thai Airways International. "Intelligent women tend not to be good-looking," said Air Chief Marshal Kasetsorn Rojananit, who is a member of Thailand's military junta, the air force chief and president of the airline. He ordered the airline to hire prettier girls, saying some customers had complained about the looks of the present stewardesses. He said this was because too many college-educated women had been hired and suggested recruiting should be conducted along the lines of beauty pageant, the nation newspaper reported.

Japan women put off thoughts of marriage

TOKYO (R) — Japanese women are delaying marriage while men seem increasingly anxious to tie the knot, latest government statistics show. The average age at which women marry rose last year to a record 25.9 years, Health and Welfare Ministry official said. The marriage age for men fell to 28.4. The Japanese have a saying that women are like Christmas cake — after the 25th it's no good. But more and more women are choosing to follow a career before they marry. It is now easier for them to postpone wedding plans — there are more unwed men than women in Japan.

La Toya: My dad sexually abused my sister

NEW YORK (AP) — La Toya Jackson says her father sexually abused her older sister and physically abused her nine other siblings, including superstars-to-be Michael and Janet. If Joe Jackson died, he would be buried next to his mother in Leningrad's Volkovskoye Cemetery. His widow, Nadezhda Krupskaya, bitterly opposed interment of Lenin in an above-ground mausoleum where his body could be viewed, but she was overruled by the party leaders, including Josef Stalin.

Mr. Taylor's radio claimed the invaders were fighting for Anas Sawyer, a West African-backed interim president who Mr. Taylor refuses to recognize.

Mr. Sawyer holds sway in Monrovia under the protection of West African troops, but Mr. Taylor also calls himself president of the nation founded by freed American slaves, and his men have overrun the rest of Liberia.

Mr. Taylor had closed all roads between Monrovia and rebel-held territory, which halted relief operations into his area.

Mr. Taylor began the war with an invasion from Ivory Coast on Dec. 24, 1989, to oust Mr. Doe, a coup leader who was accused of corruption and brutal suppression.

Guatemala recognises Belize

GUATEMALA CITY, Guatemala (R) — Guatemala has officially recognised the independence of neighbouring Belize but officials said it had not dropped its territorial claim to part of the former British colony. A Guatemalan government statement referred to "the independent state of Belize" while calling for renewed negotiations over its centuries-old dispute with the Caribbean nation that gained independence from Britain in 1981.

The statement "constitutes an official recognition of the state of Belize and its independent and sovereign nature," Edmundo Mulet, Guatemalan deputy and chief negotiator in the talks, told Reuters.

"However, the Guatemalan state maintains its territorial claims on Belizean territory and hopes to be able to resolve the dispute according to international law," he said.

Tutu's son sentenced for bomb threat

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Trevor Tutu, son of Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu, was sentenced Thursday to 3½ years in prison for making a bomb threat against an airline. Mr. Tutu, who has been involved in several confrontations with authorities in recent years, remains free on bail of 5,000 rand (\$1,700) pending an appeal. Mr. Tutu, 34, was convicted Wednesday on three counts of violating the civil aviation act and one of criminal injury. According to court testimony, Mr. Tutu asked to get off a South African Airways plane during a brief stopover in the southern city of East London on Oct. 8, 1989. When he was refused, he pushed crew members out of his path and went into the terminal building. When attempting to reboard the plane, he refused to pass through a metal detector, and threatened to "activate a device" in his luggage on the aircraft, according to testimony. The flight was delayed for four